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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,074	02/05/2002	Darren Kenneth Rogers	1559(TOUCHSTONE)	8194

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McGuire Woods LLP
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EXAMINER

MEDLEY, MARGARET B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1714

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/068,074	ROGERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Margaret B. Medley	1714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-5, 8-17 and 32-35 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-5 and 7-16 of co-pending Application No. 09/976,425. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 6, 17, 30 and 31 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6 and 17 of co-pending Application No. 09/976,425. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the density limitation of the instant claims are encompassed by the density limitation of the co-pending application claims and therefore the claims are not patentably distinct.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 2 the spelling of the term "group" should be corrected. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 9-12 and 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 32-35 appear to duplicate claims 9-12 and do not provide a further limitation of the claimed invention. It is suggested that applicants should cancel one set of claims.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (DEMI) SU 536,148A combine with (IBIG) JP 53-094,313A and (BELOI) SU 973,509A in view of Harnett 3,309,437, Madley et al (Madley) GB 1,489,690 and Kirk-Othmer.

DEMI teaches refractory, heat conducting material prepared from a charge comprising petroleum coke 73-81%, graphite 6-8%, coal pitch 5-7% and Ti 8-12% that is fired and compacted, English abstract, wherein the carbon product overlaps the instant claim range.

IBIG teaches a carbon production comprising mixing binder, titanium and/or tungsten component and coke graphite or coal and further treatment thereof, English abstract providing the teaching to use coal alone in the process and product of DEMI.

BELOI teaches preparation of antifriction articles by grinding coke, graphite and coal tar pitch fusion pressure forming, heat-treatment and impregnation with silicon melt providing the teachings to use a silicon additive in the process and product of DEMI.

The combined prior art is silent to the teaching of the swell index and density properties of the coal product. It would be obvious to the artisan in the art to use a coal product having the swell index and density properties of Harnett, Madley and Kirk-Othmer.

Harnett teaches a porous based product having compressive strength typically in excess of 5,000 psi (note column 4, lines 1-9) when heated to 950⁰ C and an apparent density of 0.93 g/cc (note Table 1 for Examples 4 and 5) and further graphitizing (note column 5, lines 20-44) which anticipates the instant claims 1-4 of Applicant. The apparent density of 0.93 g/cm of patentees renders obvious the apparent density of

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between about 0.1 and about .08 g/cm³ of applicants. It is the examiner's position that "about .08 g/cm" reads on 0.93 g/cc. Harnett is silent to the coal based product and having a free index swell of between about 3.5 and about 5.0, and preferably between about 3.75 and about 4.5.

Patentees Madley teaches the artisan in the art that by varying the pretreatment conditions, e.g., temperature and reaction time, the swelling properties of a specific coal can be controlled to a substantial degree for the subsequent use of the coal in further process step, note page 1, lines 69-75. Madley further teaches a coal having a swell index of 3.5 which encompass the about 3.5 and about 5.0 range, and suggest the preferred range of about 3.75 and about 4.5 of the instant claims, note Madley for the example on page 2, lines 32 to page 3 line 10.

The Kirk-Othmer article teaches the artisan in the art that it is state of the art knowledge that best cokes come from coals having swelling indexes between 4 and 9, the last paragraph on page 455 of Vol. 6. The article further discloses Application of Coal Petrology and Petrography, pages 429 to page 434 of Vol. 6, particularly figure 3 at page 431 for swelling indexes of coal and Table 4 for the coal classification. It would be obvious to the artisan in the art to use the bituminous coal of Koppelman and particularly a coal having 3.5-9 swell index of the secondary references as the starting material coal of the primary reference having a swell index of between 4 and 9 to produce the best coke.

It is the examiner's position that the coal of Harnett would have a Gieseler plasticity value above @ 380⁰C, a plastic range of at least about 50⁰ C and @ 75- to @

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100⁰ C, the fluidity of at least of several hundred ddpm, > 2000 ddpm and an expansion of at least 20% and at least 100% are properties that would be inherent when the select coal is a bituminous further rendering the instant claims obvious.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Margaret B. Medley whose telephone number is 703-308-2518. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on 703-306-2777. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

M. B. Medley/mn
March 25, 2003

Margaret B. Medley
MARGARET MEDLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER